



News Release from Congressman

ROB SIMMONS

SECOND DISTRICT, CONNECTICUT

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SIMMONS SUCCESSFULLY PUSHES PENTAGON TO ISSUE NEW SECURITY CLEARANCE GUIDANCE

Change Benefits Workers Whose Recertification Delayed

NORWICH (CT) – Rep. Rob Simmons, R-2nd District, today praised a Pentagon memorandum (attached) stating that defense industrial workers with "expired" security clearances have full rights to work at other facilities. Simmons has worked to ensure that Electric Boat (EB) workers and other defense contractors in Connecticut are not penalized because of the persistent backlogs at Defense Security Service (DSS) and the Office of Personnel Management (OPM).

On July 26, Simmons raised the issue with the new Acting Director of the Defense Security Service, Kathleen M. Watson. Simmons argued the workers' and industry's case and asked her to make clear the real policy as soon as possible.

"We can't allow mismanaged bureaucracies in Washington to affect critical defense industries, like Electric Boat," Simmons said. "I'm pleased that the Pentagon has clarified its policy and that our defense workers can get to work where and when national security requirements – not bureaucracy – call."

The vast majority of workers at EB – about 99 percent – must have clearances due to the fact that EB is a "secure facility," home to some of the nation's most sensitive technologies. EB workers commute to many shipyards which have similar security requirements.

Simmons has led congressional efforts to improve the security clearance system. In May, he successfully offered an amendment to the defense authorization bill that would make it illegal for the Department of Defense to expire any security clearances because of government delays in the recertification process. The Defense Security Service soon after announced that the process for industrial security clearance had screeched to a halt.

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